

• Abroad •

London, England. After Viscount Montgomery's forty-five-minute confidential talk with Prime Minister Macmillan, no one any longer believes that the stormy Field Marshal is going to Moscow as a mere private citizen. In a speech to a Press Gallery luncheon, Montgomery took a "flexibility," "tension-reducing," "concessions on both sides" line, and stressed the meetings he has scheduled with the Soviet Chiefs of Staff ("I want to have a sit down round the table with them and examine the military problem of this game. . . . It does so happen that I can go. . . . Any general from the Pentagon would not be very welcome over there.") In Parliament, members joshed the government about the pretense that the trip was private. "MR. LIPTON: Why is it that a private, personal unofficial visit of Lord Montgomery should require a 45-minute conference at 10 Downing Street? Who was advising whom? . . . MR. BEVAN: Are we to understand that the Prime Minister is convinced that Lord Montgomery is going to Moscow as a private citizen? Is Lord Montgomery equally convinced? . . . MR. HERBERT MORRISON: In view of the large and varied number of people going to Moscow in the hope of having conversation with Mr. Khrushchev, isn't there a real danger that Mr. Khrushchev will get utterly confused and mixed up? MR. BUTLER [the Home Secretary, answering for the Government]: I think from my own personal acquaintanceship with Mr. Khrushchev that he is quite capable of looking after himself."

Hammaquir, French Sahara. Both scientific and military chiefs at this desert base are pleased with recent tests of France's advanced rocket, *Veronica*. They believe it will soon be ready for military assignment, armed with nuclear warhead. As first stage in a multiple rocket, *Veronica* may also lift the first French satellite into space.

Cairo, U. A. R. President Gamal Abdel Nasser's current turn to all-out anti-Communism has caught short many obsequious hangers-on who plunged heavily on a continuing rise in pro-Soviet stock. Nearly a thousand persons, many of them prominent, have been arrested and jailed as Communists or fellow travelers. The list includes well-known journalists—among them the editor and top staff of the pro-Communist newspaper *Al Messaa*—and a high official of the Ministry of National Guidance who had got his guidelines twisted. In Syria also several hundred Communists have been picked up, but there the Party is more deeply and widely rooted than in Egypt. Experienced Mideast observers believe that the rather frantic quality of Nasser's turn derives from his belief that full Communist success in Iraq will swing Syria out of the United Arab Republic into an anti-Egyptian Communist bloc.

Rome, Italy. Conservative opinion believes that a Bonn-Paris-Rome triangle is presently the decisive factor in the East-West struggle. The conservative combination of

Segni and Pella in Rome, Adenauer, Erhard and Strauss in Bonn, and de Gaulle, Debré and Soustelle in Paris is considered the core of resistance to Moscow, against the pull of British appeasement and American instability. "For the first time in the 1,200 years," writes *Qui Italia*, "since Charles, King of the Franks, had himself crowned in Rome as sovereign of a Romano-Germanic empire, the peoples of France, Italy and Germany are not battling among themselves, but rise united, as then, against the barbarians of the East." The threat ahead is the new Mendès-Nenni-Bevan leftist axis, for which Nenni summarized policy: "the present problem is to reverse the direction European politics have taken, which is to the right—the economic right, the political right, the nationalist and colonialist right."



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"He's the most democratic sultan we ever had."

Tashkent, Uzbekistan. This fabled ancient city, now capital of the Soviet Republic of Uzbekistan, is being rapidly developed as a key center of Communist Afro-Asian operations. Its strategic adaptability to the purpose results not merely from its geographic location but from the composition of the Uzbekistan population, which includes besides Uzbeks many of the other races of Asia, along with Jews, Russians and Ukrainians. In Tashkent itself there are now more than 800,000 residents. Expanding air transport and radio facilities are linking it actively with the Middle East and the rest of central Asia. New conference halls and hostels handle a series of international conferences, both open and secret. Tashkent has become a regular stopover for visiting bigwigs, very particularly including key agents in the world apparatus.

Geneva, Switzerland. *Bo* (from "Bohemian"), a new variant of *Beat*, has moved to the Continent from its launching pad in a British art school and its first staging ground in London. *Bo*-girls wear men's black sweaters, black wool stockings, and a short balloon-shaped sleeveless dress (usually homemade). They use no makeup, let their hair go its own way, and (as explained by Judy Barker, secretary to a London businessman) "naturally we only date *Bo*-boys . . . *Bo*-girls never go to church. We live from one day to the next, and never talk about politics or atomic bombs. Our clothes are really very practical. The balloon dresses are perfect for boogie, and the wool stockings are warm and cheap."

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